

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Section of Environmental Analysis

Six County Association of Governments - Construction and Operation Exemption -Rail Line Between Juab and Salina, Utah Public Scoping Meeting Comment Sheet Name: Address: DEC 11 2003 MAIL MANAGEMENT Comments may be submitted to: Surface Transportation Board Case Control Unit STB Finance Docket No. 34075 1925 K Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20423-0001 Attn: Phillis Johnson-Ball Deadline: November 15, 2003 (Please be as specific as possible) What potential environmental issues and impacts are you concerned about?

I would like to see rail road service return to the Sever valley. I do have a concern as to what corridor it uses to get to the Salina area. I believe that it should not disrupt the lives of those that live and work in this valley. We have a clean, and safe place to live. Lets not ruin that by running a train through the part of the valley that would in danger lives at crossings on blind hills, or next to the homes of our citizens.

The proposed preferred route would put a train in the most damaging place in the valley next to homes, through feed yards and prime farm land. All of which ruins the lives and jobs of our quiet valley. It puts a crossing in an area that has problems with not seeing the road as you come over a hill. There have been many near accidents there. Putting a crossing in for a school bus to stop at would in danger the lives of our children on that bus. This route also runs through an area that has become home to fifteen families that have moved out of towns and cities for the safety and quiet of ranch living they don't need a train to come through their home and bring problems with their well water systems from the vibrations of passing trains. I have researched vibrations caused by trains and they show that the vibrations will be felt one thousand feet away. That must also go down five hundred feet would it not? The wells in this area are between one hundred and one hundred fifty feet down. The sediment would be vibrated into these wells and close them off. The farms it would run through create waste land in some areas because of not having water to now productive land. Yes, if there is an area big

enough to farm we could have a water system put in but in some places it would not be big enough anymore. The feed lots that it goes through would need to have new wells drilled because the train runs over them on five farms.

The alternate route is not a lot better it runs through sprinkler system ponds, water diversion systems, and homes that are in its path. The dust off the coal is toxic it can cause twenty-five different diseases, it should not be blown off the train and into our homes as the train passes in the wind storms that are in this valley regularly. The dust will also contaminate the soil and water for the farms along the route.

I would propose that the track be laid about one mile west of the piute canal close to the power lines that run from Sigard to Lavan area now. With the line up there it would not have any bus traffic or major traffic crossings at all. Up on that grade it is level enough for a 2 percent or less grade to pull a train with ease. It don't run through any private property or very little most of it is B.L.M. land. At that location the dust will settle with out much getting on farm land or homes. The load out should be some where out side of town. The people of Salina have tried to live with the dust in their homes for years. There in a lot of raspatory problems in the town and cancer is on the rise. There is an area west of Salina less than ten miles that is in a valley of its own that would be easily accessible to train and truck traffic just off of highway 50. Lets try to put a train route in to the Sevier valley that will benifit all and not disrup life.

Thanks Karlee Kosmusee